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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

24 MAY 1976

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Office of Strategic Research
CIA Headquarters Building
Washington, DC 20505

Dear



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(S) NSDM 242 and the nuclear weapons employment guidance of the Secretary of Defense direct that US general nuclear war planning be aimed at denying early enemy recovery to major power and influence. As part of the implementation of this directive, the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff (JSTPS) has initiated a research program into Soviet recovery after general nuclear war and the implications for SIOP targeting.

(S) Studies such as the Post Nuclear Attack Study (PONAST) have suggested that modern nations can function after an all-out nuclear attack and can recover their former economic and military power in a surprisingly short time (on the order of a decade). Preliminary JSTPS studies have shown important gaps in our data base as the SIOP general nuclear war objectives have shifted from destruction of war-supporting industry to denial of early recovery. These studies indicate the need for better understanding of how various categories of political, economic, and military targets contribute to Soviet post-attack recovery.

(S) Past efforts to analyze recovery from a nuclear war have shown that the results are strongly affected by assumptions about such matters as the form of Soviet economic organization (centralized or decentralized) and the Soviet priorities for allocating economic resources. The attached paper, prepared as part of the JSTPS research program, addresses this problem by developing three alternate sets of assumptions about Soviet post-attack political, economic, and military policy, to be used in recovery analyses. By using alternate sets of assumptions, rather than a single scenario, the analysis of Soviet recovery will more completely assess the ability of SIOP targeting to deny early Soviet recovery as a major power.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

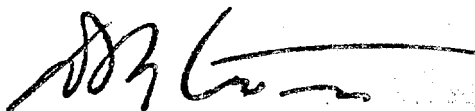
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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. EXEMPTION CATEGORY 3
DECLASSIFY ON 31 Dec 2006



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(U) I am sending you this report for your information and review and solicit your comments or suggestions. These would be most useful if received by June 25. If you have questions or desire detailed staff discussions, my point of contact is CDR J. J. Martin, (X57938).



D. R. Cotter
Chairman, DoD Ad Hoc Panel
on Nuclear Policy

Attachment

RECOVERY ASSUMPTIONS (U)

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